

WRESTLING FORUM

SEPTEMBER 30, 1990

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 18

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Welcome to V5I18.....	2
Wrestling Barometer.....	3
Independently Speaking.....	4
Pencil Points.....	6
National Wrestling Alliance.....	8
Dipstick of the Month/Class Act Awards.....	11
Psychoanalysis of an Independent Wrestler.....	12
Down the Street with Sean Hendrick.....	14
World Class.....	15
Memphis.....	16
Wrestlers Are People Too.....	18
World Wrestling Federation.....	19
Results From All Over.....	22
Miscellaneous Stuff.....	23

STAFF

Jon Gallagher - Editor

Sean Grande

Ed Garea

Jeff Siegel

Mike Viola

Sean Hendrick

Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th & 30th of each month and mailed the next day. Rates: \$1.50 per issue. All material copyright (c) Jon Gallagher 1990, all rights reserved.

OUR 112TH EFFORT...

GEE, IT SEEMS LIKE just last week we were working on the 111th Wrestling Forum. Probably because we were. We once again apologize for being late. A funny thing called "life" sometimes gets in the way of publishing this thing. Rest assured, however, that whenever we are late as we were last issue, we include any bits of news that happens up to press time. In other words, we don't cut off the news just because our deadline was the 15th or the 30th. We will continue to make every effort to get the bulletin out on time. Our staff members have been advised to get their reports and columns in a little earlier and that should make it easier on everyone.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE still are Wrestling Forum and we still publish on the 15th and 30th of each month (or thereabouts) and mail the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at a time. All renewals, letters, results of cards, and other stuff that's important that you would like to share can be sent to us at WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65 KNOXVILLE, IL 61448 unless otherwise specifically noted (like the Barometer and Tournament).

AS YOU CAN PROBABLY tell, the computer is not here yet, but I do know for sure that they've received the order. I know because we've been officially put on every mailing list that Apple has. The scary part is, I know these people are speaking English because I understand most of the words. But strung together like they are, I still have no idea what half of them are talking about. I guess that's how the causal fan feels when some of us inside fans get together at the matches and they overhear us.

I NEED TO MAKE ANOTHER apology of sorts; I've probably got twenty letters laying here on my desk that need personal replies. Most of them have self addressed stamped envelopes with them, so the only excuse I have for not answering them is lack of time. I will get around to it eventually, but finding time is sometimes very difficult around here. Questions that are of a general nature can be answered here in the Forum. Others can't. I will get around to answering them, but be patient. I don't want to seem stuck up or anything, it's just simply a question of time. If you have something that you need answered immediately, the best thing to do is call. I'm usually here in the mornign from 10:00-12:30 (note the time change from last issue) and from 11:30 pm to about 12:30 am is alright for calls as well. For quick reference, the phone number is (309) 289-2662.

NEXT ISSUE WE'LL BE DOING our top ten wrestlers again. These rankings are based on your votes. Send along your list of top ten wrestlers based on in ring work and we'll compile it for the official Wrestling Forum Top Ten.

SPEAKING OF TOP TENS, that will be one of the features of the yearbook this year: Reader's top tens. You can be serious (top ten masked wrestlers during the 80's), funny (top ten reasons Ultimate Warrior runs to the ring) or just pointedly editorial (top ten Jim Herd jokes). Be compiling them and we'll ask for them to be sent along with your ballots. Balloting for the year end awards begins with the November 15 issue.

AND WITH THAT SAID and done, here's Jeff Siegel with the latest WRESTLING BAROMETER...

THE WRESTLING BAROMETER

by JEFF SIEGEL

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER edition of the Wrestling Barometer, the unique census of what's hot and what's not in professional wrestling presented exclusively each month in Wrestling Forum!

TALK ABOUT RARITIES! — This month's Barometer marks the first time in the column's history that the top two finishers on BOTH sides of the ledger were neither WWF nor NWA related. What's more, we also saw another Barometer rarity grace this month's balloting — that of the same qualifier racking up significant points on the hot AND not lists. More in a moment.

AS ALWAYS, A QUICK review of the procedure that's used for tallying Barometer entries: 5 points are awarded for a 1st place vote, 3 points for a 2nd place vote, 1 point for a 3rd place vote and $\frac{1}{2}$ a point for every item that is included on a voter's list from 4th place on. Finally, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in the column so that we can focus on the month's major trends.

NOW, ON TO THE SEPTEMBER BAROMETER:

WHAT'S HOT

(needed to qualify: 15 points)

1. LAWLER-GILBERT CAR BUMP/ANGLE (49 points)
2. Memphis Wrestling (37 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. NWA Black Scorpion angle (26 points)
4. Influx of NWA talent (19 points)

WHAT'S NOT

1. ONITA-GONZALEZ STABBING ANGLE (57 points)
2. Kevin Von Erich takes control of World Class (31 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. NWA Black Scorpion angle (21 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
4. Texas Tornado as WWF Intercontinental Champ (18 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
5. Dusty-DiBiase feud (15 points)

NOTES: LOTS TO COMMENT on this month...first off, this is the most visible showing by the independents in quite some time. Does it mean a resurgence for them or just a couple of isolated - albeit ostentaciously - incidents. Probably the latter, but time will tell. No doubt that the Gilbert-Lawler angle's strong showing influenced the second place finish of Memphis Wrestling, but there were enough individual votes for each to merit separating them out. By the way, this is the second consecutive upside victory for Gilbert. What can you say about the Onita situation that hasn't already been said and discussed? If George Steele made me embarrassed to tell my friends I'm a wrestling fan. I can't begin to think what I'd say if they ever found out about this one...I guess the jury's still out on the Black Scorpion gimmick. Certainly Barometer participants viewed it as a clear cut split decision ...and yet another first: The Von Erichs earned the dubious distinction of becoming the first pair of brothers to qualify on the dark side while with different promotions. And by the way, with Kevin in charge, is it only a matter of time before Texas wrestling is truly "Worth-Las" again?

THE DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER entries is 10/21. Lots of regular contributors still unaccounted for this time around - you know who you are - if you miss a third consecutive month, I'll have to either name names or turn yours over to Titan to be stuck forever on their mailing list. Everyone is welcome to participate...send ballots to:

JEFF SIEGEL

BOX 5461

EVANSTON, IL 60204

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

HERB ABRAMS' UWF IS OFF and running following a very shaky start. The UWF was to have held its first set of tapings for Sportschannel a couple weeks back, but some legal problems stopped the show from taking place. The show had been booked in a facility that changed their minds at the last minute about having wrestling on their calendar. All Abrams' wrestlers showed up, but were told after arriving that there was not going to be a show. The taping was then scheduled for the following night, after the legal matter had been cleared up, however the show didn't come off as planned.

ABRAMS TRIED AGAIN ON 9/24 at a country club in Reseda, CA and this time, the show came off as planned. Three hours of TV was taped with most of the matches being straight squash jobs. Interestingly enough, the first jobber on the card was named Dave "The Observer" Meltzer. No, it was not the guy we've all come to love, it was an inside joke. The guy got squashed three times on the card, but with a name like that we didn't really expect him to do anything else anyway.

APPEARING FOR THE UWF were Steve Dr. Death Williams, David Sammartino, Cactus Jack, Billy Jack Haynes, Colonel DeBeers, Paul Orndorff, Dan Spivey, B. Brian Blair, Jay Strongbow Jr., and Billy Anderson. Angles from the show included a thing with DeBeers refusing to work with a black referee, Blair doing a run in on a Spivey match, and Orndorff taking on Steve Williams in the main event. Doc was cheered (it was a heel crowd) even though he played heel.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR the UWF include 10/4 at the Celebrity Theatre (the place they had the problem with) in Anaheim and 10/5 in Pico Rivera which will feature a lot of Mexican stars including Mil Mascaras. They return to the Sports Club for another TV shoot on 10/11 with Nikita Koloff vs Bob Orton, Blair vs DeBeers, Samoans vs Moondogs, and Ivan Koloff vs Billy Jack as the announced events.

LOCALLY, RINGSIDE WRESTLING Promotions have been put out of their misery, at least on commercial stations. They only had one commercial outlet plus a contract with a cable-Public Access channel. The commercial outlet cancelled the show and I'm not sure of the status of the Public Access channel.

WORD IS, HOWEVER, THEY will continue to tape shows every once in a while, because it really doesn't cost them anything. The building is free, the gate covers the salaries, and the camera crew is (was?) paid by the PA Channel. Don't know where they plan to show it unless they're trying to win a prize on America's Funniest Home Videos.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

report by Mike Viola

THE ICW HAS NOT TAPED any matches in a while now, and so, old news omimates their telecasts (TV networks have rerun seasons, why not wrestling?). In a feeble attempt to disguise the sad state of the ICW, we're told that the ICW is celebrating its fifth anniversary and that in celebration of such a monumental event, old matches of the past five years are going to be shown. What will they think of next? By the way, there is no truth (I hope) to the rumor that in celebration of the fifth anniversary of Wrestling Forum, Jon will be using old stories so that he will have time to finish his basketball book.

THERE IS A STRONG RUMOR going around that the ICW headquarters will be moving to Florida and that hence, all of the matches will be taking place in the Sunshine State. Given the always confusing state of the ICW, anything here is possible.

THE ATLANTIC STATES Wrestling Association out of Baltimore was forced to cancel their 9/29 show in Dundalk, MD because of the Maryland State Commission. Promoter Brian Knighton (who works as lead heel Axel Rotton) was set to promote under Lou Martin's promoter's liscence. Brian had a falling out with Barry Hardy and reapplied to the Commission to run the show under another promoter's license. The Commission ruled that there was not proper clearance time for the second prooter and canceled the show. One insider tells me that the Commission could have let the show go on as planned except that it would have meant sending out a commissioner on a Saturday night and with the way the ASWA had been drawing, for the minimum amount due the Commission. Brian found out about the cancellation a day in advance, but forgot to call other wrestlers booked on the card to notify them. They found out through the grapevine, or they would have shown up.

THE COMMISSION AND THE ASWA have had previous bad relations. At a recent show, the boys were going gto use the kitchen of the hall to dress in, but the Commission decided that the kitchen was going to be used as the commission "command post" which relegated the boys to a broom closet. Someone asked how you could tell the difference between a Maryland Athletic Commissioner and the cockroaches and the answer was, "The cockroaches are friendlier and have more integrity."

HELLO WINDY CITY? ARE YOU out there anywhere? We haven't heard hide nor hair of this group since the summer months.

JOE PEDICINO'S GEORGIA ALL STAR wrestling will be running weekly shows at a chain of roller rinks. The chain has six rinks and they will alternate between the six locations. Working for this group are Nick Busick, Joel Deaton, and Randy Rose.

EDDIE SHARKEY BROUGHT HIS Pro Wrestling America to chicago to a small crowd of hard core fans on 9/23. We got four reports of the show, but not a single one gave the complete results.

MORE ON THE CANCELED UWF taping that we just mentioned...a local California Newspaper (no name or town on the copy sent here) quotes the building manager of the Celebrity Theatre) and a district attorney as saying that Abrams canceled the show on his own. They claim that there was nothing done on the part of the theatre or city to stop the show. That doesn't really make sense since Abrams paid all the wrestlers who showed up for the canceled show.

LARRY SHARPE IS PLANNING on opening another Monster Factory in Baltimore. The place will be run in cooperation with Barry Hardy. Sharpe is facing some legal battles, though in the very near future. Add to the list of wrestlers who are suing him the American Bulldogs. Shapre has routinely over the years made his students sign a contract that gives him a percentage of their earnings after they leave his school. Bam Bam Bigelow was the first to test the ruling followed by Soul Taker who worked in Memphis for a while. The Bulldogs are now working for George Scott. Attorneys for the wrestlers claim that these contracts were signed under duress since that was the only way Sharpe would agree to train and book them. We have considered this practice of Sharpe to be legalized extortion for a long time and hopefully the court systems will agree. We understand Sharpe wanting to protect his interests but these are lifetime contracts that he has the wrestlers sign in addition to his training fees (which range upwards of \$3500-4000 nowadays). It's sort of like buying a car and then having to pay the dealership for each mile you drive in addition to repairs. It's just not fair.

6 Pencil Points

YEAR END AWARDS

I'm looking forward to the year end balloting this year. I hadn't been real interested in the past eight months, but the events of the past two weeks have got me stirred again. I'm waiting on a tape of the Eddie Gilbert running over Jerry Lawler thing in Memphis, but from what I hear, that has to be considered for angle of the year. No doubt that the worst angle of the year will be the stabbing of Gonzales. Promotion of the year would tend to be Memphis just because of the last two months of really hot stuff. I'm not sure what will take best major event, yet, but I think I'm still waiting to see the best major event. Shock of the year is about the only thing that comes from the first part of the year. It has to do with a certain prematurely bald musclehead taking a three second nap under that guy who wears as much make up as Tammy Faye.

I think it says something about the wrestling business that it can be so dead for eight months, then all of a sudden come to life. I wonder if those in power start worrying about the various year end awards towards the end of the year and actually start trying to compete for them. I certainly seems that way, at least this year.

-I. M.-

-New York, NY-

WWF TV TAPINGS

I think I've been to four TV tapings done by the WWF since they started the three shows taped in one night syndrome. I know it's expensive to tape a show, but thirty matches a night is too much for anyone to bear, even a hard core fan. Casual fans complain all the way out of the building about having to sit through so many "one sided" matches. Dark matches are few and far between and now that the announcers rarely make an appearance, it's even worse.

I've enjoyed the tapings I've attended for a couple of weird reasons. I get to see most of the big names use their finishing holds which never happens at house shows. I also like to see what kind of angles are going to be used in advance. And of course, I like to see how they handle screw ups.

When you head down to Springfield on the 9th, take along a good supply of No-Doz. Good luck controlling your kids that long as well. I, for one, will forgive you if we only get half a report.

-CRAIG BECKETT-

-Orwigsburg, PA-

EDITOR: I've been to two Titan tapings already and one NWA taping. I'll be traveling solo to Springfield this time around.

CONVENTIONS

I attended your Memphis convention and the recent convention in New York. I liked Memphis better for several reasons.

Both conventions had big names. The difference was, the people in Memphis in 1988 seemed like they WANTED to be there where the stars in New York seemed more like they were there just to get paid. Paul E. Dangerously was at both conventions and he was extremely friendly both places. Most of the other big stars acted like first class jerks.

The other big difference was organization. Your 1988 convention was far from organized (remember the hotel claiming their vans that were to transport us to the matches had been stolen?). Your convention seemed like a spur of the moment thing with a vague outline of what was supposed to happen. The New York Convention was carefully or-

chestrated with planned activities most of the time. Actually, I liked Memphis better from this regard, because it left free time and seemed more relaxed.

Both conventions were fun and well worth the money. I'm sorry that you didn't sponsor one this year because I did like yours a bit better. I think the difference was this: you put on your convention because you love the sport. The New York people put on theirs because they wanted to make money.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

EDITOR: I withheld the writer's name on this letter because of his position within the business. He didn't want the letter printed at all, but I talked with him and cut out all incriminating references.

NWA WOES

It seems that the NWA has its problems. Like any other sports franchise, there are always enough people around telling the management what to do and what not to do. The armchair quarterbacks abound citing problems and correcting them on paper. There's a problem that no one seems to address: these people might have good ideas on paper, but evidently the people who are in charge of gaining or losing millions of dollars based on them aren't willing to gamble away the cash.

I used to play both Strat-o-matic and APBA when I was a kid. I could take a lousy team back then (like the Padres or Expos) and make them pennant contenders. The problem with those games were that we used cards to simulate each player. No card ever refused to play because he was mad at the magaer. No card ever gave less than 100% There were no egos to satisfy, just cold hard statistics.

The armchair quarterbacks who are suggesting different ways to run the NWA are just like the Strat-o-matic and APBA managers. They do wonders on paper, but when it comes to dealing with live human beings - people who have just had a fight with the wife, couldn't find their favorite ring rat, didn't get a color photo in Apter, gotten a staph infection from a dirty mat, been woken up in the hotel by a fan's middle of the night phone call, missed a plane, dropped a weight on his foot, done too many 'roids, missed a move or had one missed the night before, been turned down for a loan or insurance, or another of many other excuses - they strike out.

Until you've been there, and lived the life of a wrestler or a booker, there's no way you can accurately predict how you'd handle a situation. Saying you'd fire the individual who refuses to do a job is one thing, but actually doing it and replacing a hot feud with someone fresh out of the independent circuit is something else.

Stop with the telling of the NWA how to run their promotions and either enjoy what you get, or don't watch.

-ERIC HOYME-

-INDIANAPOLIS, IN-

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

LOTS OF CHANGES, but few personnel wise. They are going to move the Power Hour from Friday nights to Saturday mornings and it should lead into WGN's show in most markets. The rest of the TBS schedule will remain the same for now, but the announcers will be shifting a bit. Jim Ross is going to handle the brunt of announcing as usual, but Missy Hyatt's job will be expanded. Paul E should have some additional air time as well.

ALSO CHANGING WILL be the TV taping schedule. All TBS shows are going to be taped at Center Stage in Atlanta which is supposed to save some money. Turner owns Center Stage so any money that is handed out for cost on this will just be moved on paper so it's no big deal. They are planning on taping two weeks worth of TBS shows at once. The syndicated shows will be taped once a month now and separately. The Worldwide show will be shot on one week and two weeks later they will do the Pro show. This may be risky as with four weeks worth of shows in the can at once won't allow them to introduce new talent on the syndicated shows as rapidly, plus they will be stuck with any angles they have taped in case someone leaves. Again, this is being done to save money, but from experience, sitting through that many tapings will be murder.

ALTHOUGH NO LINE UP has been announced yet, they have the next Clash set for 11/20 from Jacksonville, FL.

SINCE WE LAST MET ON these pages, there have been two wrestlers run the gauntlet. You have to give Ole credit; he knows what wrestlers to choose to give the best potential matches. The first was Scott Steiner. His first opponent was Bobby Eaton on the Power Hour. It was an excellent match that went nearly ten minutes and ended with Scott pinning Eaton after a Frankensteiner. Second up was Ric Flair in a match that was also very good. There was plenty of heat for this one and just the right combination of outside the ring antics by the two wrestlers and their seconds. Scott wound up pinning Flair in the middle after Rick snuck in and gave Ric a Steinerline. Third up was a match with Arn Anderson. Good solid match again that went about 10:00 ending in a DQ when Flair did a run in.

BOBBY EATON WAS THE NEXT to run the gauntlet and he won the first match in the series when Cornette whacked his opponent Tracy Smothers over the head with the tennis racket. Eaton then went on to beat Ricky Morton in a strange ending. The match went to a draw, which I thought meant the "blockers" had won, but they ruled that it had to go another five minutes worth of "sudden death." Eaton ended up winning with Stan Lane's help. His third match was against Sid Vicious on Sunday's Main Event and other than the match going five minutes or so, it was basically a Vicious squash.

THEY WON'T BE RUNNING THE gauntlet every week on TBS from here on out, just occasionally. I think that's a good idea. The concept is novel and it seems to go over well with both casual fans and inside fans, but running it every week would do several things: 1) it would get

stale rather quickly. 2) it would quickly exhaust the number of wrestlers running the gauntlet (unless you REALLY want to see JYD and Reno Riggins go for it). 3) it would give away too many good matches on TV each week. Running it every week has its advantages too: 1) it gives fans the chance to see match ups they normally wouldn't see and wouldn't really care about if it weren't for the gauntlet. 2) It makes fans want to tune in to the next show to see if whoever makes it. 3) it could be used to set up new feuds.

BUT LOOKING AT IT LOGICALLY, how much longer could it run on a weekly basis? The booking, in order to be effective, could only be done one way: the runner had to win his first two matches leading into the climactic third match on Sunday. If they kept this up, they would defeat their own purpose and fans would start tuning in just on Sundays. Running it periodically will keep fans interested and make it a special event.

ART BARR DEBUTED this past weekend on TV as the Juicer. I missed the match, but more than one person called and said they thought for a minute it was Owen Hart having a bad day. I missed the match myself due to a snafu in setting the VCR, so I'll withhold comment until I actually see him work.

J.W. STORM ALSO MADE HIS debut on the show. We first saw him work as one of Maximum Overdrive. It's Jeff Warner doing his best impression (which wasn't all that great) of Bret Hart.

GOT A BRIEF REPORT ON the next set of tapings done for this coming weekend. I was told that the Nasty Boys got a clean win over the Southern Boys.

ALSO THE TEAM OF MARK & Chris Youngblood, a.k.a. the Renegades, made their first appearance and got involved right away in an angle. The Freebirds were wrestling Brian Pillman and Alan Iron Eagle and the Birds started destroying Iron Eagle. Mark and Chris made the save and that sets up a new feud between those two teams.

THE "LITTLE" MASTER BLASTER that missed all the moves on the Clash walked out after getting some dressing room heat. We reported last issue that he missed a slam on Tim Horner (or at least messed up the move somehow) and as a result, Horner got a dislocated shoulder. When he got back to the dressing room, several of the boys were making fun of him and really laying on the criticism so he walked out. This may be a case of sour grapes, but I'm told he was due to be fired the next day or so anyway.

THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM IS officially history. We've been told this several times already only to have them pop back up on the next TV show. The story here is that WCW wanted to replace them because they had a reputation of being very hard to get along with, but each time they got ready to fire them, something happened that they need a mid level team or individual. The SST claim now that they were tired of this and walked out while those at World Championship Wrestling are saying that they were fired. Take your pick; I'm sure neither story is 100% accurate.

THE NEW FALL SEASON HIT the NWA harder than we had originally thought. One source estimates that they lost somewhere around twenty five outlets when contracts were not renewed for the new season. The same source says that they were able to pick up a few stations, but the bottom line will be a net loss of syndicated coverage. This hurts because running shows where there is no local TV has a proven track record of being doomed from the start. It has already cause the rescheduling of Starrcade from St. Petersburg to St. Louis and who knows how many house shows are going to be affected. Right now, there's a lot of finger pointing going on, but I really don't think that the main target of the fingers - Ole Anderson - can shoulder the brunt of the responsibility.

LAST ISSUE I PUT THE BAD mouth on Stan Hansen for working so tight and really hurting guys. I meant what I said, But I still expected to hear some opposing viewpoints. Not a one. In fact, I got a letter from one of the NWA guys (who pleaded with me and bribed me not to print it) who said basically (he didn't say anything about paraphrasing though) the same thing I did. It seems that a good many of the wrestlers are tired of him playing a real live bully in the ring and a couple have gone as far as to suggest that someone lay a few tight shots on him in retaliation. The problem is, Stan Hansen is legitimately tough, and doing so might result in permanent visits to physical therapy. What it comes down to (according to the letter) is that Stan Hansen scares the daylights out of almost everyone in the NWA. But, if we start seeing Stan paired up against either one of the Steiners, you'll know someone is sending a message.

TWO OTHER NAMES HAVE TALKED about coming in in the near future. Jonnie Stewart, who works part time for the AWA and goes to school full time, has had some talks, but I don't look for anything to come out of that anytime soon. I'm not sure who initiated those talks. The other name is Larry the Butcher Cameron, but he's managed to get a rep for "working too tight." I guess the NWA only needs one guy on their staff to fulfill their commitment to Workman's Compensation. Cameron appears to be happy working the indy circuit, so I don't look for anything there either.

TERRY FUNK WAS ASKED BACK to handle a Funk's Grill segment on a regular basis, but I don't look for anything to happen there. He's set to work Memphis' tournament to crown a new Unified champ and he's the odds on favorite to win the thing. Funk was on a radio show in New York a couple months ago saying some pretty nasty things about the NWA including that he didn't even want to be in the same city as they were.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH

September 1990

A LOT OF WRESTLERS made appearances both nationally and in several local markets during the Labor Day weekend, helping Jerry Lewis raise money for his Muscular Dystrophy telethon. We salute everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

THIS MONTH'S WINNER is the group of wrestlers from the NWA who this past month went to Hollywood to tape five episodes of Family Feud. The five wrestlers (we have conflicting reports as to who they were) won \$15,000 which they donated to the Make A Wish Foundation, an organization which helps terminally ill children make wishes come true. We salute the NWA for their contributions to this little know, yet extremely worthwhile organization.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH

September 1990

NO DOUBT ABOUT THE situation that will receive this month's award. The Onita-Gonzalez stabbing angle was the most repulsive, embarrassing piece of trash ever even though about since the beginnings of professional wrestling. The only thing left to do is to decide who gets the award, Onita or Gonzalez.

THE ANGLE THAT HAD Gonzalez reprising his role as a knife wielding murderer was Onita's idea. He thought that by creating the angle, he could become a national hero in his native Japan by being "stabbed" by Bruiser Brody's murderer. He would then gain revenge in a match that would sell out any arena in Japan.

FORTUNATELY, JAPANESE fans were as outraged as Brody fans. Onita failed in his plan as many arena refused to let a revenge match take place. Onita is considered for the Dipstick Award because of his tasteless manipulation of an angle. The idea was not only disgusting but stupid. Anyone who is that out of touch with what fans want to see should never be considered to run a promotion or be a booker.

THE DIPSTICK AWARD GOES to Jose Gonzalez for going along with the angle in the first place. One would think that someone full of remorse would want to put as much distance between himself and the murder of a superstar as possible. Not Gonzalez. He went into the angle with no regard for the feelings of fans or other wrestlers.

ONE HAS TO WONDER HOW Brody's widow and son feel about the stupidity of both of these men. What kind of painful memories must be brought back for them when they watch or hear about Gonzalez "stabbing" someone else, this time with his fate to be decided inside a wrestling ring rather than a Kangaroo Court in Puerto Rico.

MANY FANS HAVE EXPRESSED their embarrassment of being a wrestling fan in light of this angle. Personally, I'm ashamed that either Onita or Gonzalez are considered part of the Human race.

WE AWARD THIS DIPSTICK with the proper shame. We hope that reasonable promotions will recognize their "contribution" to the sport and remember it should either man ever come looking for a job.

PSYCHOANALYSIS OF AN INDEPENDENT WRESTLER

An Amateur Couch Trip

by Jon Gallagher

Ask Lex Luger, or Ric Flair why they are professional wrestlers and you might get a different response from that of Hulk Hogan or the Ultimate Warrior.

Money, fame and a certain percentage of "actor's ham" might be your responses. Each probably had a different reason for breaking in, but some of the truth behind their responses may be lost in the fact that they have "made it."

The future of professional wrestling lies not with the Road Warriors or the Steiners or Jerry Lawler. It lies with the budding rookies fresh out of training school. Hundreds train each year at a multitude of training schools, hoping that they have that special gift to become the next superstar of the business. Some make it to the big time as stars. Many others get to the point of being jobbers. Most, however either drop out of the wrestling business altogether or remain on the independent circuit, pretending they have the talent to make it to the big time someday. They all possess the confidence of Ric Flair; the talent is sadly lacking.

When i began this newsletter nearly five years ago, I was warned about getting involved with some of the wrestlers. An old timer who had never made it to the jobber ranks was honest about his career and those around him. Quoting from a letter received from him in March of 1986: "...we're a bunch of little boys in grown up bodies playing out childhood fantasies. We're playing a game of cops and robbers, good vs evil and everybody wants to win. Some of us play the game better than others. Other stay here, playing a comfortable game. You come in and tell on us. There's a lot of people out there who won't like that and would hurt you for doing it."

I've taken three independent wrestlers that I know and correspond with on a regular basis and asked each some very pointed questions. I will withhold their real names, but I think you'll recognize some of them. I am not a psychologist. This is strictly amateur.

BARNEY

Barney's not even twenty five yet, but he's been around wrestling for the better part of a decade. He began setting up rings as a kid in high school and driving wrestlers from town to town when needed. He worked his first match at the age of 19. He's never been in a circuit bigger than Memphis and to him, 1000 people would be a massive audience. Barney is not married and lives with two other wrestlers.

He does not have another job.

I asked Barney what makes him stick around wrestling. He said, "I've got it, man. I've got what it takes. Going big time only takes a lucky break. I'll get it. I've sent Pat Patterson (one of Titan's agents) my tapes. He keeps telling me I got it, there just ain't room right now."

How much does Barney make? He can't come up with a straight answer to that question. He's been living a lie too long. My best estimate is that his best payday has been around \$75 for a night's work. Barney is not completely lacking in talent; he might be able to make it big time on a short term basis. By then, his drug and alcohol problems will catch up to him. He claims he has those problems because he worries about his future in the business.

Would he give up wrestling if someone offered him a job making \$100,000 a year in some other business? Again, no straight answer.

"It won't be long before I'm making that kind of cash. 'sides...who'd pay me that kind of money somewhere else?"

FRED

Fred's been wrestling for six years. He finds it hard to hold a regular job because of his wrestling. He works about once a week now and it seems that after any match, he calls in sick for a couple of days. He's sore and hurting. Fred has the talent to make it as a jobber somewhere, but he prefers to win a few as opposed to making big money once in a while. Fred is married and has a baby on the way. He's been with his present daytime job for almost a year.

What keeps Fred in wrestling? "Hey, sure beats handball or jogging. Keeps me in shape. It's fun. And I get to raz the marks. Can you imagine walkin' up to somebody on the street and tellin' them they're ugly or something? They'd bust your head. You can do that to the audience. The most they'll do is throw beer in your face."

Since Fred was a little more sensible than Barney, I asked him if the quote from the letter about little boys was accurate. "Yeah," he laughed. "That sounds good."

How much does Fred make? "Usually about \$45 a show, I guess. Sometimes more, sometimes less. Depends on the house."

Would he quit if someone offered \$100,000 a year for another job? "In a heartbeat. But I'd make sure I could find SOMEWAY to wrestle maybe once a month too."

Does he think he has what it takes to make the big time? Well, he has confidence, but he knows his size limits him. He would rather stay in his area doing the occasional independent show and stick close to his family. "I love to wrestle, but I'd hate the road. Too many horror stories. Nah, I'm happy."

DINO

Dino's been around for two years. He's large. He was recruited for wrestling by another wrestler. Before that, he'd never heard of Lou Thesz or Verne Gagne. He never went to a wrestling school; he was trained by another wrestler. As a result, he worked less than two dozen shows. He was taught how to fall, and how to help his opponent bodyslam him. He doesn't study other wrestlers. With his bits of knowledge, he thinks he knows enough to make him the next Owen Hart. This boy's confidence is matched only by his girth. He refuses to sign up for a legit school. He works in the receiving department of a department store and lives with his parents. Dino is 20 years old.

Why does he wrestle? "I'm big and I'm bad. I can handle anything they throw at me. Look at me. I'm only twenty and I'm better than most guys out there. It's just a matter of time."

I took a chance and asked about the quote. He dismissed it with comments that had to do with the droppings of male cows.

How much does he make? A lot less than he claims. "I pulled a grand for my last match. That's average." My turn to talk about male cows.

Would he give it up for \$100,000? "Not a chance. After I retire from the ring I'll be a promoter."

He's got a good start. He lies like one already.

DOWN THE STREET
with SEAN HENDRICK
Scattered Thoughts...

ON THE OPENING of the third hour of the Challenge show taped from Rochester, Gorilla Monsoon welcomed viewers to "Rochester, New York, Home of the world famous Apple Blossom Festival." Nice plug. Unfortunately, Rochester doesn't have apple blossoms. Rochester is world famous for it's "Lilac Festival." Nice to know that the big ape is in touch with his hometown.

...**WHY DOES A** boxing ring have four ring ropes and a wrestling ring only three?

...**HOW ABOUT THIS** for a promotional concept? Have a group of pro wrestlers go up against the American Gladiators on their TV show.

...**DON'T YOU THINK** that if Vince McMahon REALLY wanted Ric Flair he could have sent a team of Titan lawyers to find a loophole in Flair's contract?

...**WHY ARE THEY** marketing an Akeem doll?

...**IS IT JUST ME** or is the nickname "The Dudes with Attitudes" the most appropriate title for Sting and Lex Luger you've ever heard?

...**WHEN JIM ROSS** calls a backdrop a "high elevation," isn't he being a little redundant?

...**SINCE WRESTLEMANIA VII** is in Los Angeles, do you think "Bo Knows Wrestling?"

...**HAVE YOU EVER** watched one of the NWA shows taped in the Cobb County Civic Center (you can see the sign) and expect to see the Big Bossman do a run in?

THE BIG THING for me on Summerslam was seeing how Kerry "The Texas Tornado" Von Erich would do on a live big show.

...**IF BRIAN PILLMAN** was such an outstanding player and team leader with the Bengals, then why isn't he still with the team?

AMERICAN LEAGUE UMPIRE Ken Kaiser hosts an annual dinner for charity that features sports celebrities. This year's is Rochester's seventh annual event and among those scheduled to attend are Larry King (master of ceremonies), Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire of the A's, Don Mattingly, Ozzie Smith, George Brett, Roger Clemmens, Frank Viola, Tony LaRussa, Jim Leyland, Steve Sax, George Bell, Kelly Gruber, Ellis Burks, Wally Joyner, Joe Carter, Mike Pagliarulo, and Pete Incaviglia plus wrestlers Ric Flair, Sgt. Slaughter, John Studd, Road Warriors, and Bobby Heenan. The date is November 8 here in Rochester and tickets are just \$150.00 each. Last year, Flair, Sting, Animal and Hawk were scheduled to appear but no showed. Bobby Heenan was last year's master of ceremonies.

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

STEPHEN KING'S NEWEST BOOK has the following plot: Kevin Von Erich regains control of World Class. He decides to push himself. He brings back not only Mark Lowrance to do the announcing, but also Bill Mercer. He continues to use Skandar Akbar as his lead heel manager and Gary Hart as a manager and the booker. Scary isn't it? But wait... it's not in King's mind! This is reality and that makes it even more scary!

KEVIN REGAINED CONTROL of the promotion two weeks ago when Jerry Jarrett decided to not fight Von Erich in court. Really, Jarrett had nothing to gain if he won the court battle. The promotion was down to running two shows per week, one of them being the weekly TV shoot. They had just lost their contract with Channel 11 in Dallas so there was no way to promote upcoming cards in that city. As part of the settlement, Jarrett gave up his 60% control in exchange for the USWA syndicated network, so Kevin is left with eight to ten wrestlers, one broken down arena, and no TV outlets. And the funny part of all this is Kevin thinks HE WON!!!

THE MOST WIDELY SPECULATED scenario has Jarrett going back home to Memphis while Kevin beats his brains out trying to sell a product in Dallas that no one wants to see. Von Erich's first show by himself drew a whopping 400 fans. After Kevin burns out, Jarrett will come back in with his Memphis wrestlers (who will now have some wide spread exposure) and take over the Texas wrestling scene without it costing him a cent in legal fees to fight the Von Erichs.

STAYING WITH KEVIN AT the moment are Chris Adams and Steve Austin, Percy Pringle, John Tatum, Gary Young and Billy Travis. He is bringing back Lowrance and Mercer who are individually bad, but together, they're horrendous.

LATE WORD IS THAT KEVIN is now trying to sue Jarrett to gain control of the syndicated TV spots. At present, somewhere around 100 TV stations carry the USWA which is now solely Memphis.

OTHER WORLD CLASS STUFF

by Mike Viola

YES, WORLD CLASS DID make WNEU's new fall schedule (no Scooby-Doo cartoons this year) and so the report does make this issue of the Forum. All of the behind the scenes legal stuff has put most angles (as well as the entire promotion) into limbo. We'll try to keep up with everything in this crazy place but don't be surprised if things start contradicting themselves (I'm an expert in these situations, you know; I cover the ICW too).

NOTE: THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN prior to Jarrett's departure...

JERRY LAWLER HAD BEEN suspended for previously piledriving referee Tony Falk, so Jeff Jarrett confronted Skandar Akbar the following week and challenged him to a match that would involve Lawler's suspension being lifted if he won and Jeff's hair being cut if he lost. Akbar agreed and sent Gary Young out to represent Devastation. Though there was interference by both Akbar and the Angel of Death, JJ still won the match and got Lawler's suspension lifted.

LATER, AKBAR AND JARRETT were at ringside being interviewed when Akbar tossed a fireball at Jeff (for some strange reason, hopped on a stretcher and had his boys carry him off after the attack; I have no idea why). Jeff now has a nice scar on the side of his face as a result of this (in Dallas only, of course). Bill Dundee then took Jeff's place in a tag match with Lawler against Young and Sweet Dadi Falcone, where he was pinned as a result of Big Rod Price's interference.

OF COURSE THEY'RE PLAYING the fireball incident to the max since Jerry Lawler just happens to throw a mean fireball himself. A video was shown involving all of the fireballs Lawler has thrown in the past. It was quite effective and entertaining as well.

I'VE CRIED WOLF BEFORE concerning the Adams-Austin feud being over, but this time I really believe that it is finished. A mixed tag match in a cage with Percy Pringle in a cage at ringside as well was the coup de grace. The Adams family (hey, that'd make a good title for a TV series!) controlled entirely and concluded when Toni pinned Jeannie to end the match. Afterwards though, the Adamses were joined by Chris Von Erich and the three of them just beat the daylights out of Percy, Austin and Jeannie. Toni even managed to pull a clump of Jeannie's hair out (it was a weave). Austin did his usual crazy bump of the night by falling headfirst down the ring steps onto the floor (in a previous match he was on the receiving end of a very tight ghetto-blast by Adams). There is now absolutely nowhere else for this feud to go, unless puny Chris Von Erich (note the dramatic foreshadowing here) gets involved.

CONTRARY TO HIS BROTHERS' wrestling careers, Chris seems very willing to learn wrestling moves via the ring. He consistently tries to make a move look real instead of just flailing away and hoping that the other guy sells the move anyway. In his tag matches with Adams, he will work about 20 seconds and then get out before he makes any glaring mistakes. His biggest problem though, is that he is SO SMALL. He cannot weigh more than 160 and be any taller than 5'7".

MEMPHIS REPORT

with help from BILL BURNETT

BILL SENT ME A TAPE OF the Lawler-Gilbert car bump and let me tell you, it looked so real as anything I've ever seen. Lawler rolled in to the windshield and shattered it, then bounced off that and on to the far side of the car to the pavement. Lawler looked like he was heavily padded in spots, but, he sold the move well. He suffered a legit bruised hip from the bump.

THE ANGLE, AS EFFECTIVE as it was to me, bombed on local Memphis TV. Only 1100 fans showed up at the show the next Monday night to see Lawler gain revenge for being hit by the car. Many fans around town thought that they had faked the hit and run (how they were explaining that, I have no idea). One thing that did take away from the angle was announcer Dave Brown's reaction. Instead of going nuts because Lawler had been hit, Dave simply said, "Oh my." The proper thing to do here would have been to have mass hysteria and throw a channel 5 logo up on the screen until they "calmed things down."

STILL, I ENJOYED THE angle a lot and it's a strong candidate for Angle of the Year.

AS EXCITING AS THE past few weeks have been TV wise, these past two have been just as unexciting. Most everything is revolving around a tournament that will be held 10/8 to crown the new Unified World Champion. They seem to be sacrificing the weekly shows in order to assure a good attendance for that one.

THERE WAS NO MID SOUTH Coliseum show on Monday the 24th as the arena had been booked for some sort of fair/rodeo. They instead ran at Catholic High School in Memphis on Thursday night the 27th (even though the graphics during the first part of the show listed the Coliseum as the site. Other than a Coal Miner's Glove on a pole match with Gilbert and Lawler, there was nothing on the show really worth mentioning.

DAVE BROWN FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED the World title on the TV show, but left out Snowman's name, saying "the previous champion didn't fulfill his dates." Lawler later came out and called him by name and said that Snowman had been running around town with the belt and doing TV commercials with the belt, but no one recognized him as the champion anymore. He went on to say he'd like to see him enter the tournament, but he knew he wouldn't show up anyway. Too bad they don't find some excuse to have "Snowman" wrestle under a hood and the squash him in the first round or something.

ENTERED IN THE TOURNAMENT are a bunch of bigger names that are being brought in for the one night tournament. They have announced Austin Idol, Eddie Gilbert, Terry Funk (odd on favorite at this point to win the thing), Dick Slater (billed as Southern champion), Ivan Koloff, Jerry Lawler, Steve Keirn (who sent a taped interview and some clips from Fabulous Ones matches that were at least six years old), Mean Mark Callous (not Master of Pain as he had worked here before going to the NWA), Gary Young, John Tatum, Dirty White Boy, Jeff Jarrett, Bill Dundee, Brickhouse Brown and Jimmy Valiant.

DIRTY WHITE BOY WILL BE feuding with Brickhouse Brown over the next few weeks. They ran an angle where Brick was wrestling Doug Gilbert and DWB ran in with a noose and hung Brick over the top ropes. Joey Mags and Danny Davis made the save.

ON THE PREVIOUS MONDAY night, they had a 17 man blind battle royal. All participants were blindfolded and the last two had to work blindfolded as well. The winner would get a chance to win a new car. Eddie and Lawler were the last two naturally, and Eddie lifted his blindfold to get a bearing on Jerry, then KO'd him with a foreign object. Eddie then got to play Let's Make a Deal, only with two doors. One had a Toyota MR2 behind it and the other had a Gallaghermobile. Eddie of course chose the wrong door and got the clunker. He beat up the car a little more than it already was and left mad. Jerry used this as part of his personal appearance deal and said he'd be out at a local car dealer with Eddie's car that he had won. Fans were invited to drop by and spray paint it if they wanted.

JEFFS GAYLORD AND JARRETT regained the tag titles here, but not without an angle to drag out the feud with them and Harris and Lee a little further. On TV, Harris and Lee came out and fired Downtown Bruno on TV. This left Bruno to face the champs with tag team partner the New York Brawler. Lee and Harris ran in during that match and threw powder in Gaylord's eyes and then doubled on Jarrett. They said later that firing Bruno was a hoax, and then proceeded to steal the tag team belts. Never fear, though, as justice prevailed the next week when the Jeffs came out and stole the belts back.

THE 10/1 MEMPHIS CARD will feature a four man round robin tournament to determine the number one seed in the 10/8 tournament. The participants will be Lawler, Dundee, Jarrett and Eddie. Lawler did a semi heel interview with the others, saying that he would do anything to be champ again. The winner will get a first round bye in the next week's real tournament.

TO FURTHER THE FEUD BETWEEN DWB and Brickhouse Brown, they did an angle where they humiliated him even more. DWB was wrestling Dundee and Eddie Gilbert did a run in. Brickhouse followed but the heels got the upper hand when Sam Lowe chloroformed Brown and they put a blond wig and make up on him. Brown would be my second choice to win the tournament so that Snowman's claim that they discriminate against blacks won't hold any water.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

One thing about conventions; they usually give us plenty of Wrestlers Are People Too profiles. The recent New York convention was no exception. We've received several over the past couple weeks and more were promised over the phone. This issue, we'll take a look at one fan's experiences. Remember, this is one fan's experiences only and might be drastically different from what you might encounter with the same wrestler. Our writer this issue wishes to remain anonymous.

TERRY FUNK - A true gentleman. Talked freely and openly about the business and signed autographs for everyone who wanted one. Has a great sense of humor and took compliments well. I got the impression he's not a big Sting fan.

PAUL E DANGEROUSLY - As funny out of the ring as he is behind the mike. A true professional whose love for the business shows through. He was cracking on Dave Meltzer when he couldn't operate a fan's camera and said, "That's why Wade (Keller) gives you a free picture." A great guy.

TED DIBIASE - I've known people who have met him and said he was a great guy, but the four different times I've met him he's been a real jerk. A fan approached him and asked where Sapphire was and he replied, "At home doing my laundry."

KAMALA - Very friendly. Said that he only works four or five dates a month now. He works as a farmer on his 300+ acres of land full time. Said he wouldn't mind working for Vince again.

MEL PHILLIPS - It's an old saying, but if you look up the word "asshole" in the dictionary, you'd find this guy's picture. Has an attitude that he's above everyone else, but all he is in reality is a second rate, out of shape ring announcer. I may be off base, but he may be a member of the Terry Garvin school of self defense.

KERRY VON ERICH - I've met Kerry on more than one occasion and he's always been very friendly. He took time to sign autographs and talk tot he fans. Seemed especially nice to the younger children.

DUSTY RHODES - Let's just say that everything you've ever read about this guy is true. Another jerk who hates the fans. 'Nuff said.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT nearly as tasteless as the Gonzales-Onita stabbing angle, we do have an early nomination for DUMBEST angle of the Year. We may not get to see it played out to its conclusion until after the first of the year, but we can almost guarantee what's coming.

TV TAPES WERE DONE last week in Toledo, OH and Dayton OH with a Saturday Night's Main Event being shot at the same time. During all of the shows taped, a huge egg was present near Brother Love's interview platform, though no one made any kind of reference to it at all. We understand that the cameras got quite a few shots of it throughout the tapings, so we can pretty well assume the announcers will be wondering where it came from and what it's doing there.

THERE'S TWO POSSIBILITIES. Neither are very exciting. Here's the story. Hulk Hogan is doing a new movie called Urban Commando where he plays some sort of outer space type warrior who comes to save the earth. There will be a bad guy in the flick and Mean Mark has been signed to play that role. We shall assume that he also is from outer space. The egg therefore represents an easy way of space travel for either Hogan or Mean Mark. Remember Mork and Mindy and how Mork arrived on Earth? Odds are that either Hogan or Mark is going to come busting out of the egg before too long and my money's on Mean Mark.

LISTEN CLOSELY MR. MCMAHON and you can probably hear our readers shaking their heads in unison. The other sound you hear is all the late wrestlers turning over in their graves.

THE SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN event that was taped this past week will air on 10/13. I didn't think there would be another SNME between then and Survivors, but the folks at the Prairie Convention Center in Springfield Illinois are insisting that the 10/9 date there will be both a Superstars taping as well as a SNME taping. Titan officials will only confirm that it will be a TV shoot, but they aren't saying which show(s) are being taped there. Ask too many questions of Titan folks and they start getting paranoid and get very careful about who they sell tickets to.

ONE MAJOR ANGLE COMES from the taping last week, if it makes it to TV. Dusty Rhodes was wrestling Randy Savage in the ring with son Dustin sitting in the front row. Ted DiBiase and Virgil come to ringside and start "buying" ringsiders' seats from them until it was only them and Dustin left. Dusty saw what was happening and started out of the ring to help. Savage attacked him and Ted, Virgil and Dustin started to brawl. Dustin got a chair over the head and got hardway blood. The heels left the babyfaces laying to start the Dusty-DiBiase feud. But it may not start.

DRESSING ROOM SOURCES tell me that the blood was indeed an accident. Or at least it wasn't planned. A dressing room confrontation almost led to blows between Dusty and Ted. Bad blood (pardon the pun) exists between the two from way back. DiBiase had a verbal agreement to work for the NWA when Jim Crockett bought the UWF from Bill Watts a couple years ago. He instead went to Titan and named his black manservant "Virgil" as an insider's joke/barb at Dusty, whose real name, of course is Virgil Runnels Jr. When Dusty signed on with Titan, Ted became very interested in jumping to the NWA and in fact, was within a hair's breath of doing so several times (several times we got the report that he had jumped).

THE ANGLE AS IT WAS SHOT may not appear on NBC as they have a

stipulation about blood on their telecasts. This could all be just a clever ploy by Titan to fool all the sheets, but somehow, I don't think so. Since this was the main angle shot, I expect it to be broadcast in some form or another, but I'm not sure how. One wrestler suggested that they might have to redo the angle on the next set of tapings (which would be the Springfield show) but that would only give them four days to properly edit what they need. We do know that the angle was not shot on the next night's Challenge taping.

I HAVE YET ANOTHER report on this incident; this report says that NBC has seen the footage of the brawl and rejected it for broadcast. Titan sources say that they will resubmit the footage with some "creative editing including, if necessary, digitalizing the shots where blood is evident."

ALSO, I WAS CORRECTED on the sites of the tapings. The Superstars and SNME was done in Toledo, but the Challenge was shot in Flint, MI. I read my schedule wrong.

OTHER MATCHES FROM THE taping of SNME leaves a lot to be desired. I think they just wanted to get the season's opener out of the way. Sergeant Slaughter beat Koko B. Ware. Nicolai Volvof came to ringside during the match waving an American flag. Hogan and Tugboat beat Rhythm & Blues by DQ when HIM used his guitar on Tugboat. Earthquake did a run in and splashed Hogan, but Tugboat managed to get the guitar and save Hogan from any further damage. Kerry Von Erich beat Haku with the discus punch in a match said to be terrible.

WE'RE NOT SURE IF THE Roadies & Warrior vs Demolition was taped for SNME or if it was dark (the cameras work during every match now), but the babies won the match.

FROM SUPERSTARS, THERE were really only two angles shot. One had Rick Martel spraying his perfume in Jake Robert's face. This sets up their feud as Jake had no one to work with since Bad News took off. Martel isn't 100% yet, so they're hoping he will be by the time this airs.

ON ANOTHER BROTHER LOVE segment, Ultimate Warrior was a guest and he ended up putting a dress and a wig on BroLove. He said something about Savage now having another dress to hide behind.

A NEW MASKED WRESTLER made his TV debut here. They're calling him Battle Cat (seems like there's a Saturday morning cartoon with the same name or at least a character with that name; I'll have to check with my daughter to make sure) and his gimmick will be a weak imitation of Tiger Mask. The wrestler under the hood is decent enough. It's Brady Boone who won our Jobber of the Year award three years ago.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER Saturday Night's Main event on Thanksgiving weekend. Sorry, but I can't seem to find out if it will be taped in Springfield or not. There should be at least two other sets of tapings between now and then and it would look silly to tape the show seven weeks in advance, but you never know.

SURVIVOR SERIES WILL BE on Thanksgiving night again this year and will come from Hartford, CT. The tentative teams have been announced as follows:

- 1) Hogan, Duggan, Tugboat, Bossman vs Bravo, Rude, Earthquake, and the Barbarian.
- 2) Volkof, Sheepwhackers, & Santana (can't wait to see what name and reason they come up with for teaming these guys) vs Slaughter, Orient Express and Akeem.
- 3) Ultimate Warrior, Kerry, and Road Warriors vs Demolition (all three) and Curt Hennig.
- 4) Jake Roberts, Rockers & Jimmy Snuka vs Martel, Warlord, Roma and Hercules.

5) Dusty, Hart Foundation & Koko vs DiBiase, HTM, Valentine, and a player to be named later.

THEY ARE ADVERTISING six eight-man matches, and the final match will have the survivors from all the other matches going at it with special stipps for the Ultimate Survivor (guess who should win that). Since they are advertising the last match to be an eight man match as well, and since there are only five matches leading up to it, it tells you that more than one man is scheduled to survive in some of those matches.

TITAN RAN A CLEARANCE sale of WWF merchandise at the home office in Stamford, CT this past weekend. They were advertising up to 50% off selected merchandise (which would still make them a handsome profit) plus live appearances by Bossman, Jake, Bushwhackers and Dusty (who I bet was thrilled about being there).

NBC WILL NOT BE RUNNING a prime time special this year, however it looks like Titan is close to inking a deal for a prime time special on the Fox network instead. This could be a major story in a couple of months (shoot, it's a good sized one now). NBC and Fox are at odds right now because of several things including Fox putting their top show "The Simpsons" up against "Cosby." In the past few years, the Fox network was looked at as an upstart network with no future. Now they are viewed as a legitimate threat. One has to wonder how a prime time special on Fox would set with the brass at NBC who will be thinking about future SNME shows. It may be in Titan's best interest to go with a new network like Fox because their tolerance of strange programming seems to be higher than that of NBC. Several years ago we reported that Titan had talked to Fox about giving them the syndicated Superstars show exclusively and now, that could be a conceivable possibility with the Fox network doing so well.

DAVEY BOY SMITH IS said to be headed in by the end of the year, but former tag team partner Dynamite Kid will be left behind. No decision on whether or not he'll get a push once he's in.

VINCE IS MAKING WAVES in the bodybuilding industry now. He's planning a quarterly magazine plus he's planning to do some shows with his own crew of bodybuilders. His only competition in this sport comes from Joe Weider who sort of has a monopoly at this point. I don't understand the sport itself, so if anyone out there wants to help us out by explaining what's going on to our readers, your help will be greatly appreciated.

TITAN HAS FILED SUIT IN New Jersey against the athletic commission there. Titan is upset that they have to pay taxes to the commission when they testified in court and in front of the state legislature that wrestling is not a sport, but a form of entertainment. The athletic commission brought a countersuit against Titan requesting taxes be paid. This stems from Titan's running of two Wrestlemanias from Trump Plaza in New Jersey and having to pay a tax on not only the live crowd, but also on all those subscriptions sold through PPV since the show originated from New Jersey. Looks like this case will be heard by a jury.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

9/13 TAMPA (PWF) - courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...Terminator beat Bodyguard Mark...Dennis Knight pinned Coconut Kid...Dick Slater defeated Lebanese Assassin...Sgt. Rock/Mark Starr over Hurricane Walker/Joe Gomez...Steve Keirn beat Jim Backlund...NOTES: Attendance 250...Main event was in a cage with Backlund's manager Johnny G Lyons in a smaller cage...Johnny Ace did a run in after the match and beat up Kerin...Starr and Rock are new tag team champions...Mike Graham was a no show.

9/14 LAKELAND, FL (WWF) - courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...Bob Bradley over Jim Powers...Battle Cat pinned Brooklyn Brawler...Snuka won by DQ over Warlord...DiBiase pinned Dusty...Tony Atlas over Buddy Rose...Orient Express defeated Bushwhackers...Jake Roberts downed Akeem...NOTES: Attendance: 2500...Akeem replace Bad News in a cage match...DiBiase hit Dusty with the Million Dollar Belt to set up the pin.

9/15 PHILADELPHIA (IND) - courtesy of A BUNCH OF PHILLY READERS...Eddie Gilbert beat Cactus Jack...Exotic Adrian pinned Jimmy Valiant...DC Drake downed Rockin' Rebel...Kevin Von Erich/Chris Adams DDQ Al Perez/Austin Idol...Abdullah DDQ Manny Fernandez...Tony Stetson beat Johnny HotBody...Jerry Lawler over Terry Funk by DQ...Rockin Rebel won a reverse steele cage battle royal...NOTES: Woman was with DC Drake and Baby Doll was with Rebel...Baby Doll turned heel and threw powder in Rebel's face...Cactus Jack filled in at beginning for Manny Fernandez because he was late getting to arena...Attendance: 1500-2000.

9/17 INDIANAPOLIS (WWF) - courtesy of ERIC HOYME...Shane Douglas pinned Lanny Poffo...Ron Garvin over Pez Whatley...Dustin Rhodes beat Black Bart...Jim Duggan won over Rick Rude by DQ...Paul Roma beat Marty Jannetty...Slaughter over Volkoff by submission...Warriors & Warrior beat Demolition...NOTES: Attendance 4000...Hercules interfered in Roma-Jannetty match...they flipped a coin to decide who would wrestle...a below average card and a lot below average work rate.

9/27 TAMPA (PWF) - courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...Lou Perez beat Ron Slinker by DQ...Mighty Thor pinned Coconut Kid...Johnny Pavros pinned Powerhouse Parker...Starr/Rock beat Walker/Slater...Keirn over Bodyguard Mark and Johnny Lyons...NOTES: Attendance: 110.

9/23 ATLANTA (NWA) - Juicer pinned Dutch Mantell...Terry Taylor beat Sheik...Master Blasters over Rotundo/Iron Eagle...Vader squashed Zenk...Steiners over State Patrol...Luger DOOR Hansen...Flair/Anderson DDQ Doom...NOTES: Attendance: 3500...Doom was cheered...Luger-Hansen a rip off that went less than five minutes...Taylor looked bored...Juicer got no heat at all.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

A PERSONAL NOTE TO THOSE who want to meet and possibly go for pizza (or anything else that Springfield has that is semi-edible) before the 10/9 show. I will be at the Illinois State Historical Library in the basement of the Old Capitol until they close (5pm). You can meet me there as I plan to walk from there to get something to eat and then to the Capitol Center. I'll be in the Microfilm room at the Library.

I KEEP FORGETTING TO PLUG a very good bulletin. Georgiann Makropoulos puts out Wrestling Chatterbox and it's available for \$2.00 at 23-44-30 Drive, Astoria, NY 11102. It's gossipy and fun to read. My apologies for not telling you about it sooner. Chatterbox comes out monthly.

THERE MAY BE A SLIGHT problem with coming up to Chicago for Halloween Havoc after all. I'll try to have some additional information next time around and we'll see how the car performs on the way to the Titan show on the 9th. Don't know what's wrong with it, but one mechanic suggested that we jack up the radiator cap and drive a new car underneath. That's real encouraging.

CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO IS NOW Grandpa Lou Albano for the seventh time. Congrats go out to him and his family.

JUST CHECKED WITH MY resident expert on cartoons and Kelly says that Battle Cat is in fact a cartoon character. She believes that he is on with the He-Man and the Masters of the Universe show. She could be wrong, she's only six.

SLAMMERS GYM IN LOS Angeles had a recent awards ceremony to honor some of the past greats of wrestling.

THERE'S YET ANOTHER Ladies group starting up and using Bambi as their champion. Luna Vachon is one of the principals in the promotion end of this one. The name for the group is tentatively Ladies Major League Wrestling.

GOT AN ADDRESS FOR Brutus Beefcake in case you want to send along your well wishes. This comes from a source outside the WWF so it's legit and not some way to get new names for a mailing list. The Address is BRUTUS BEEFCAKE, C/O GOLD'S GYM, 7815 N DALE MARRY, TAMPA, FL 33614.

GET WELL WISHES AND a couple very special prayers go out to Tom Robinson, an old buddy from the Philadelphia area. Tom's been very seriously ill and we wish him the best. I really don't understand why Tom's sick; he's so bad, germs shouldn't dare live on him or close to him. Just kiddin' bud. Hang in there.

I TRIED TO CONVINCE my doctor that I had other things to do other than these silly tests on my arm and he said, "Like what?" I told him a wrestling bulletin and he said, "So what?" So, I guess that means a couple days late again. One of these days we're going to publish on time and someone's going to have heart failure.

UNTIL THEN, THE GOOD LORD WILLIN' and the creeks don't rise, we'll see you back here in a couple weeks. Bye now.

WRESTLING FORUM V5I18
JON GALLAGHER - EDITOR
BOX 65
KNOXVILLE, IL 61448

STILL OLD FASHIONED: To tell if your subscription is current, look at the color of ink used in printing your address label above. If it's black ink, your subscription is current. If it's **GREEN INK** then this is your next to last issue. If it's **RED INK** then this is the last issue on your subscription and it's time to renew. Thanks for reading!